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December 27, 1961 Opinion No. 62-5

REQUESTED BY:

Honorable Alvin Wessler

House of Representatives

OPINION BY:

ROBERT W. PICKRELL The Attorney General

QUESTION:

Is it possible to increase the number of supervisors on a county board of supervisors by statutory law without amending the constitution of the State of Arizona?

CONCLUSION:

Yes.

The Arizona Constitution, Art. 12, Sec. 3, provides that:

"Subject to change by law, there are hereby created in and for each organized county of the State the following officers . . . three Supervisors . . . "

Section 11-211, A.R.S., 1956, implements the Constitutional section above.

In the case of Amish v. City of Phoenix, 36 Ariz. 21, 282 Pac. 42 (1929), the court said:

"... in our own Constitution the provisions regarding ... the officers named therein for the counties of the state (art. 12, §3) ... the Constitution itself provides they are subject to change by law, and it has never been considered an amendment of the Constitution for the legislature, in conformity with the power conferred upon it, to make such a change."

It is our opinion then by a reading of the Constitutional provisions and the aforementioned case, that the legislature has the power to change the number of supervisors of the counties by statutory enactment, without further Constitutional Amendment.

JOSEPH S JENCKES, V Assistant Attorney General

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RWP:JSJ:lmh

HIGH MINNEY GENERAL